

Ron Smith (Glastonbury)

2013.03.14

To: The Ct. State Public Safety Committee
Re: Proposed Anti-gun Legislation (S.B. 1076 etc.)

Dear Legislators,

The simplest and most effective way to protect against future mass-shootings is to restrict the news Media and others, from glorifying the shooters in their acts of infamy. It is not about gun(s); what type, which caliber, how many rounds in the magazine etc. It's about the **person** who chooses to MIS-use the gun. To martyr a madman is to grow a whole crop of young madmen. So instead of trying to take guns away from the good guys, take the madmen out of the spotlight. Deprive them of their "fifteen minutes of fame", which has really become more like Billions of dollars of prime-time Press coverage, as they 'go down in their blaze of glory'.

It's not about the MIS-use of firearms. If there were no guns, it would be something else. Deprive deranged people of firearms, and they will find other ways to inflict themselves on society (plenty of examples of this throughout history and around the world). So the solution is the same, whether for guns, bombs, toxins you_name_it.

It is self-evident that anyone who commits these atrocities is mentally sick. The prospective shooter, like a suicide bomber, is already comfortable with the concept of their own demise. To an outcast or a social mis-fit or a disgruntled mental defective, consequences such as incarceration, shame, and guilt, pale in comparison to the opiate of being able to force EVERYONE in the world to stop and pay attention to them. When the Media grants them that wish, the Media is also to blame. Then the Media turns around and suggests that 'legal and responsible gun owners' should be punished for an event-cycle the Media themselves have fueled. It's a 'red herring', don't fall for it.

To slow this cycle of exhibitionist violence we have to take the 'shooter' out of the spotlight. To actually make it stop we have to change our culture to utterly and deliberately ignore the identity of the shooter (or bomber etc.), it's the only way to remove the incentive. If the Media aren't willing to police themselves, by redacting the picture and name of the shooter, then I propose that legislation be drafted to use the power of law to prevent them from profiting from the sensationalism that feeds on the deaths of our children, and our caring, protective adults, both in schools and everywhere else. We can Stop it, we need to stop it now! This is a real solution, and it doesn't create hardship and harm to law-abiding firearm owners to do so.

Gun-free zones are like a dirty band-aid on an open wound. Depriving honest, law-abiding citizens of modern tools (such as semi-automatic firearms) to protect themselves, their homes, and their families is both a travesty, and an insult. Do something that helps to protect everyone, all the time, everywhere. Go to the root of the problem, and that means making a difference in the **mind** of the disgruntled, mentally-defective, potentially violent person.

Signed Ron Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Smith". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized 'R' and 'S'.